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Annual Reporting Form for 2003 for WasteWise for King County, Washington

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Section 1 - Participant Information

Organization Name: King County

Facilities included in report and number of employees: About 13,500 employees at 95 facilities.

Section 2 - Waste Prevention

Goal #1: SURPLUS AND REUSE - Establish new guidelines for dealing with surplus equipment and furniture, to simplify and speed up the County surplus process. Establish an on-line exchange, on the County's internal "Intranet," for surplus equipment and furniture, for at least one major County department. For smaller items (office supplies such as binders, folders, etc.), set up new office supplies exchange areas in 10 County offices. Explore other creative reuse opportunities for office equipment, furniture and supplies, including cooperative efforts with agencies and organizations outside County government.

Progress made toward this three-year goal, and related activities, in 2003:

- Following up on previous work, the King County WasteWise program continued to work with King County Surplus in 2003, to help ensure an efficient surplus process. In 2003, Surplus reissued 5,890 pieces of office furniture and equipment, which had a total adjusted value of \$1,021,233. Surplus determines the value of items at 50 percent of their estimated retail cost. The 5,890 pieces reissued by Surplus were a substantial increase over the 3,700 pieces reissued in 2002 and the 4,000 pieces reissued in 2001.

- In addition to the used equipment and supplies handled by Surplus, more than 30 different County buildings or work areas currently have their own used office supplies exchange areas (when supplies are reused in the same work area, it is even more efficient than using the County's surplus system). In one of these work area programs at one County building, it was documented that more than 1,700 pounds of office supplies were reused (actually reused, not just collected), resulting in a savings of about \$2,600.

- The Solid Waste Division expanded its "repair/rebuild program" (as opposed to replacement) of division capital equipment, to extend the life of this equipment. This program includes heavy equipment, such as landfill machinery and the large solid waste trailers that serve County transfer stations. An estimated average annual savings of \$650,000 is expected.

- Water & Land Resources Division sometimes buys homes in flood-prone areas, when the sellers are willing. In the past, these homes have usually been demolished. In the last two years, the division has been trying to salvage usable parts of the houses, as much as possible. In 2003, the Division arranged for the RE Store, a non-profit used building materials store and salvage operation in Seattle, to recover materials from a home on the White River. The RE Store salvaged flooring, cabinetry, doors and bricks from the chimney, with a total estimated weight of about 2,300 pounds. At another house, which was run down and had no salvageable materials, the Division worked with the local air pollution control agency to remove burnable toxic materials, and the house was then used by the Maple Valley Fire Department for a training fire, and burned down.

- The on-line exchange for surplus equipment and furniture on the County's internal "Intranet" for the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, which was started in 2001, remains active and is now also used by other Departments, such as Transit.

Goal #2: WASTE PREVENTION PLANS - Provide assistance in developing waste prevention and recycling plans for new County buildings, and for remodels and relocations of County agencies.

Progress made toward this three-year goal, and related activities, in 2003:

- Legal research and preliminary approvals took place to set up an arrangement with the RE Store, a local non-profit used building materials store, to salvage used building materials from County construction, renovation and demolition jobs. It was expected that this arrangement – a formal Memorandum of Agreement – would go into effect in April, 2004. It would cover materials not currently recovered through the County surplus program. It is believed that this agreement, which was first suggested by County capital project management staff, would be one of the first of its kind in the nation.

- King County continued to make significant strides in its participation in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification system for construction projects (see below, in the section on "Progress made on green building activities").

Goal #3: WASTE GENERATION - Reduce the percentage of waste generation per employee by five percent or greater, in at least five County buildings.

Progress made toward this three-year goal, and related activities, in 2003:

- For the second year in a row, we were able to calculate the change in the percentage of waste generation per employee for a major County building. At the King Street Center, where approximately 1,550 County employees work, the pounds of garbage generated per employee per year was estimated at 94.21 pounds for 2003. This compares with 95.55 pounds in 2002 and 105.63 pounds in 2001. This is a reduction of more than 12 percent since 2001. This 2003 waste generation rate of 94.21 pounds of

garbage per King Street Center employee at work per year compares with the current overall per capita rate for a King County resident of 1,675 pounds of garbage a year.

- For other County buildings and facilities, we have not been able to obtain useful and reliable figures for garbage tonnage, recycling collection tonnage, and number of employees. Data from garbage and recycling haulers often does not match up logically with buildings. Another problem is that a number of County employees work in buildings that include non-County offices.

GREEN BUILDING ACTIVITIES related to waste prevention - Progress made in 2003:

- The King County Green Building Initiative (signed by County Executive Ron Sims in 2001) adopted the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System for construction of King County government buildings. LEED is a performance-based system for rating new commercial and institutional buildings. Under this initiative, County government construction projects are required to apply LEED criteria in the pre-design and design phase of projects, and are encouraged to seek the highest LEED certification possible.

- One major project completed in 2003 seeking LEED certification was the County's new Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center, a 35,000-square-foot, \$12-million building. Stormwater runoff is treated and retained or infiltrated on site, minimizing the burden on local treatment facilities and recharging groundwater and local water bodies. Light-colored roof surfaces help reduce cooling loads in the building. Native landscaping was used to restore portions of the site, with minimal irrigation needs to save water. Low-emitting interior materials were selected. The building was designed with daylight and view access at the majority of regularly occupied spaces. Daylighting saves energy, by reducing electric lighting and cooling loads. Energy-efficient mechanical and electrical systems were also installed. The project provides bicycle storage and changing rooms to encourage environmentally-friendly commuting.

- Other County buildings (planned for the near future) that will seek LEED certification include: an office building; two bus system buildings; two solid waste transfer stations; a major sewage treatment plant; and a smaller sewage treatment plant.

- Other green building efforts by the County's Wastewater Treatment Division in 2003 included:

- An Environmental Laboratory expansion project completed in 2003 incorporated environmentally-preferable flooring and included natural ventilation and daylighting.

- At two pump station projects, a variety of low-toxic materials were being considered, and several other green building measures were planned.

- "Trenchless technologies," which are much less invasive than "dig and replace" techniques for replacing sewer system components, were used. This work in 2003 included the rehabilitation of 91,000 linear feet of main line, laterals and side sewers.

- For a "combined sewer overflow" outlet regulator station, green building elements being considered included daylighting, trenchless technology and pervious paving.

- About 1,100 feet of pipe on a main sewer line were relined rather than replaced.

- The Division helped fund a City of Seattle LEED project, an environmental learning center.

- Low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paints were used in several projects.
- In 2003, the Transit Division demolished a large industrial warehouse near downtown Seattle, as part of the Atlantic/Central parking garage and bus parking lot development. In this project, 584,000 pounds (or 200,000 board feet) of rare old growth Douglas fir ceiling beams were recovered for reuse. The resale value of these beams was estimated at \$1.1 million (\$5.50 per board foot). As part of this same project, 24 million pounds of soil (12,000 tons, or 8,000 cubic yards) were salvaged and reused at another site.
- The King County Department of Transportation installed an 8,000-square-foot "green roof" in 2003 on the terminal building at the King County International Airport (this is not the main public airport for the Seattle area, but it has heavy business and industrial usage, with a total of about 300,000 flights a year). Green roofs, also called "eco-roofs," are complete systems of vegetation, soil, drainage and a waterproof membrane. Green roofs are continuous hydrological systems designed to absorb and slowly release rainwater, and they have notable environmental advantages.
- Under a new LEED program for existing buildings, King Street Center (a King County office building known for its environmental features) has applied for certification, and is expected to be one of the first existing buildings in the nation to receive this honor.
- As part of King County's Green Building Initiative, the County has an internal Green Building Team, comprised of County staff from all departments. The team provides education and support and promotes the use of green building practices in all buildings the County constructs, remodels, and renovates. In 2003, the Green Team presented its first Green Building Initiative Recognition Awards. These awards acknowledge County agencies that have shown, through their work, a commitment to uphold the standards outlined in the Green Building Initiative. Four divisions were honored in 2003: Water & Lands Resources; Wastewater Treatment; Facilities Management; and Transit.
- The King County Green Building Team also held professionally-facilitated "eco-charettes" for two county projects in 2003. These charettes train and familiarize members of the team - as well as project managers, budget personnel, designers, and engineers - on LEED and sustainable building techniques, approaches and materials.
- In June 2003, the King County Council unanimously passed a motion stating that the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks "shall adopt sustainable design and development as a guiding principle that both demonstrates and produces enduring benefits to the citizens of King County. Project design elements shall incorporate concepts that minimize long-term impacts to the environment." The motion also reinforced the Department's commitment to the County's LEED program.

OTHER WASTE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES in 2003 not directly related to goals:

Reuse:

- King County Transit retreaded an estimated 317,160 pounds of bus tires in 2003 - more than 50 percent of all its used bus tires (the rest of the tires - most of which could not be retreaded because of wear - were chipped, mixed with wood chips and used for

"hog fuel"). The total of 317,160 pounds retreaded in 2003 is a 40 percent increase over the amount retreaded by Transit in 2002.

- Tire retreading was also done by three other County divisions, for trucks and other vehicles. Not including the bus tire retreading, it was estimated that the retreading of the tires on these vehicles saved the County approximately \$125,000 in new tire expense in 2003 (no tonnages were available for these tires).

- King County Transit gave away to other County agencies, the public or businesses:
 - 9,000 pounds of glass window panels to the public, from bus shelters. Most of these were double-paned panels with one of the panes broken. (People use these panels in their gardens, as shelters, since one of the panes is unbroken and the other, broken one has an interesting mosaic-like look.)
 - 750 pounds of polypropylene rope.
 - 700 pounds of plastic barrels.
 - 600 pounds of steel drums.

- County agencies collected an estimated 6,000 printer, fax and copier toner cartridges for remanufacturing and recycling (the majority were remanufactured). Completing the reuse loop, County agencies purchased nearly 5,000 remanufactured toner cartridges, at a cost of about \$220,000. It is estimated that these purchases saved the County \$330,000, since the cost of these remanufactured cartridges is about one-third the cost of new cartridges.

- A County Department of Transportation equipment shop began a new program in 2002 to have a company dry-clean their air filters for reuse. This saves money spent on heavy equipment air filters, and also substantially reduces the volume of used air filters being sent to the landfill. The Department saved an estimated \$3,500 in 2003 by reusing filters. The filters are cleaned with an innovative "sonic" dry cleaning process, using controlled air, vacuum, vibration and rotation cycles - no chemicals.

- More than 185 pounds of polystyrene peanuts were collected, at three different buildings, in 2003. That is nearly three times the total tonnage of peanuts collected in 2002. The peanuts are given to a shipping business for reuse.

- Metal refrigerant cylinders weighing a total of 150 pounds were collected for reuse.

- King County Traffic Maintenance Unit began in 2000 to "hyrdostrip" damaged aluminum road signs, using high-pressure water to remove paint and laminate from the signs. The water is also reused. A unit supervisor reports that it costs half as much to refurbish the sign this way as it does to purchase new aluminum sign blanks. This program showed a savings of \$775 in 2003.

- At the County's Cedar Hills Landfill, the Solid Waste Division began in 2003 to reuse the rock that forms the driving surface for heavy equipment and trucks on the landfill. Some landfill cover material is also reused at the same time. This program saved about \$54,000 in its first month alone, and is expected to reduce the Division's annual costs for rock by more than \$250,000.

- Several large planters and plants - formerly at the Kingdome (which was demolished in 2000), and in storage at a Parks Division greenhouse since then - were reused for an employee lunch area at the Cedar Hills Landfill.

- King County's Parks Division has begun selling salvaged trees to businesses that create high-value specialty wood products from them. Parks Division has also developed its own product from downed trees. Called the Eco-bag, it's made from wood chips and used in place of straw bales for erosion control. When Eco-bags are no longer needed, the biodegradable netting splits and the chips are spread like mulch. This is an environmentally sound use of urban wood waste. Currently, Eco-bags are only available for internal County use.

- The Roads Division shredded stumps and other landclearing debris on-site to produce 1,200 cubic yards of "wood mulch" for a road-widening project. This material lasts longer, costs less, and does a better job as an erosion-control ground cover than bark, the typical material for this application. This project saved about \$18,000 in new material costs.

Reduction:

- The Solid Waste Division took a number of steps in 2003 to reduce paper consumption:
 - "Your King County Benefits," a 178-page collection of 11 booklets, was sent electronically to all employees with e-mail, instead of being distributed in paper form.

- Various employee information, which was formally sent as paper inserts with paychecks or pay statements, was sent electronically to all employees with e-mail. This is now the standard procedure.

- The Division submitted 50 names of former employees to the national EcoLogical Mail Coalition (www.ecologicalmail.org), so that those names could be removed from mailing lists, reducing unwanted mail.

- Efforts continued in 2003 to convert Solid Waste Division field staff to electronic timesheets (the WasteWise evaluation report for 2002 incorrectly reported that this had already happened). Although several technical problems hampered this change, it was hoped it could be achieved in 2004.

- Statistics developed in 2003 showed that one work unit in the Division reduced paper consumption by 11 percent from 2001 to 2002, saving about \$1,100.

- In 2003, the King County Department of Transportation purchased about 68,000 pounds of a "cold patch" asphalt patch compound that reduces the amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) released to the environment. This product is a dry, odorless, ready-to-use asphalt-based compound used to repair potholes, cracks, and other defects in paved surfaces. It contains 70 percent post-consumer recycled asphalt. According to the manufacturer, the County's purchases amount to 750 55-gallon drums of VOCs prevented from being introduced into the air and water in King County.

- The Solid Waste Division launched a program in 2003 to save money on supplies and uniforms at its transfer stations and landfill. Working with the uniform and supplies vendor, the Division reduced the number of rubber floor mats rented, eliminated shower towels (and asked employees to bring their own), and adjusted the number of uniforms provided to each employee to a standard number. These changes also result in waste reduction. The vendor estimates that these actions will reduce the County's costs by nearly 50 percent, saving about \$35,000 a year.

- At the County's King Street Center office building, a large upright cabinet-style worm bin unit was purchased and installed on the building's loading dock in early 2003. In this vermicomposting program, 581 pounds of food scraps from the building's kitchens were composted in 2003, creating more than 132 pounds of vermicompost. This compost was used in the building's landscaping beds and given away to County employees.

- After months of development work by the Solid Waste Division, the Fleet Administration Division announced a program in 2003 to remove mercury switches from County vehicles before they are surplused, keeping that toxic material out of the waste stream.

Sustainability:

- The Solid Waste Division continued to make significant progress in 2003 in developing and enhancing its Environmental Management System (EMS). Although some EMS goals target energy, water and fuel conservation, there is also a sizable waste reduction component. One of the County's Waste Wise coordinators is also involved in the EMS project, and some waste prevention efforts (such as the Division's paper reduction activities) tie into both projects. One significant success for the EMS program in 2003 is that the Cedar Hills Landfill received a 5-star certification (the highest ranking) from the EnviroStars program, a recognition program of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program of King County. About 60 different environmentally-friendly waste management practices were identified at the landfill (which includes a large equipment repair and maintenance shop).

- After hearing about the successes of the Solid Waste Division's Environmental Management System, King County Transit Division asked for preliminary assistance from Solid Waste Division in developing its own EMS.

SECTION 3 – Recycling Collection

General comments: It is very difficult to separate the amounts collected as a direct result of our WasteWise participation, so we list relatively small amounts that are fully attributable to WasteWise. As shown, many of the other totals are believed to be partly related to WasteWise, in areas such as measurement, education, etc.

Recycling Collection Goals: Reach a 40 percent recycling collection rate in at least 10 County buildings or agencies; Add at least two new materials in five or more County buildings or agencies; Increase the recycling and reuse of County computers each year; Show an increase each year in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, due to recycling and waste prevention (reuse and reduction).

Progress made toward these three-year recycling collection goals, and related activities, in 2003:

- The recycling rate for a major King County office building, the King Street Center (1,550 employees) was 60.25 percent for 2003. This was slightly less than the 61.3 percent rate for 2002 and about the same as the 60 percent rate for 2001.

- In 2003, Transit Division compiled annual recycling rate calculations for four facilities (these are based on 2002 figures):

- Power Distribution Center: 39.9 percent recycling rate.
- Information Distribution (Marketing): 93 percent recycling rate.
- Vanpool Distribution Center: 34.8 percent recycling rate.
- Lake Union Facilities: 71.1 percent recycling rate.

- New materials were added for recycling in more than 12 locations in 2003. These materials include small batteries, plastic bottles and shredded paper (office paper that is shredded and recycled by Sea-Dru-Nar, the County's recycling vendor).

- Regarding reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: According to the 2003 EPA report based on our evaluation information for 2002, King County's reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (due to recycling and waste prevention) has improved substantially, from a Metric Tons Carbon Equivalent (MTCE) reduction of 1,086 in 2001 to a MTCE reduction of 1,302 in 2002 (equal to taking 995 cars off the road for one year). NOTE – It still appears that some types of waste prevention (reduction and reuse) activities may not be fully reflected in the EPA's Climate Profile calculations, and we hope that the calculation methodology will continue to be reviewed and improved.

- A total of 19,502 pounds of computers and other electronics equipment from King County agencies was recycled in 2003. This is significantly less than the 49,942 pounds recycled in 2002. (It is believed that stockpiled electronics may have accounted for the high total in 2002.) The County has a blanket contract for electronics recycling that all County agencies may use.

GREEN BUILDING ACTIVITIES related to recycling collection - Progress made in 2003:

- Construction of the King County Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center was completed in May, 2003. It was calculated that 86 percent of the total construction waste stream was recycled. This includes 193,340 pounds of mixed construction waste recycled in 2003. This information was provided by the contractor because this project is a participant in King County's "Construction Works" program. Under this program, construction projects are recognized for waste prevention, recycling and "buying recycled."

- As noted in the waste prevention section above, in 2003 the Transit Division demolished a large industrial warehouse in Seattle, as part of the Atlantic/Central parking garage and bus parking lot development. King County achieved an 84 percent recycling and reuse rate in the demolition phase of this project. Huge recycling tonnages were generated, including:

- A total weight of 30 million pounds, or 15,000 tons (7,455 cubic yards at 4,024 pounds per cubic yard) of large blocks of demolished concrete were recycled. They were reduced in size from one foot to one inch onsite - using a piece of heavy equipment called "the Nibbler" - and used as aggregate fill material. The new parking garage will incorporate 5,000 cubic yards of this fill material into its sub-base. The remaining material will be used as a sub-base for the rebuilding and resurfacing of an adjacent city street. The recycled 7,455 cubic yards of concrete was valued at \$59,640, based on \$8 per cubic yard of concrete.

- Approximately 570,000 pounds of steel and 30,000 pounds of copper were salvaged and sold, generating \$20,400 in revenue, based on scrap steel prices of \$120 per ton and copper prices at 30 cents per pound.

- The Solid Waste Division calculated that it achieved a savings of \$66,562 by recycling concrete, asphalt, rock, aluminum and steel at a major renovation project (including roof replacement) in 2003 at its Renton Transfer Station. The recycling totals from this project included: 74,640 pounds of steel; 28,740 pounds of aluminum; 270,830 pounds of concrete; 269,100 pounds of asphalt; 465,696 pounds of mixed asphalt and concrete; and 2,241,040 pounds of 5/8-inch and 1-and-1/4-inch rock. The concrete, asphalt and rock went to two local firms, Renton Concrete Recyclers and M & M Road & Recycle, for processing.

OTHER RECYCLING COLLECTION INFORMATION for 2003:

- King County's overall recycling collection total for 2003 is 37.8 million pounds, compared with the total of 4.88 million pounds in 2002. This huge increase is primarily attributed to the recycling of concrete, asphalt, rock and scrap metal related to the major County construction and demolition recycling projects described above.

- King County recycled 2,225,592 pounds of scrap metal in 2003, an increase of 32 percent over the 2002 total. The 2002 total had been an increase of 66 percent over 2001. While the previous year's increase may have been partly the result of improved reporting, this year's increase appears largely attributable to the metals recovered in the construction and demolition projects.

- King County recycled a total of 1,664,831 pounds of paper in 2003, which was slightly below the 2002 total of 1,673,782 pounds. This decrease might have been even more pronounced, if not for improved reporting. The amount of high-grade office paper recycled was down significantly (from 163,976 pounds in 2002 to 61,809 pounds in 2003). This could partly be the result of improved waste prevention techniques, such as electronic communication instead of printed copies.

- The amount of plastics collected for recycling more than doubled, rising from 4,748 pounds in 2002 to 9,675 pounds in 2003.

- The amount of yard waste collected for composting increased from 87,040 pounds in 2002 to 114,380 in 2003, primarily because of improved reporting.

- In April, 2003, King County Executive Ron Sims enacted an Executive Policy requiring all County facilities to recycle mercury-containing lamps, such as spent fluorescent tubes and high-intensity discharge lamps. The new policy exceeds recycling requirements set forth in federal and state law. For instance, County agencies now are required to recycle "low-mercury" or "green tip" lamps that might otherwise be permitted in the trash. The policy also set up systems to simplify the lamp recycling process.

Section 4 - Buying Recycled Products

General Comments: King County adopted a Recycled Product Procurement Policy in 1989, and its Environmental Purchasing Program is nationally recognized. The WasteWise program does do some buy-recycled education, but the Environmental Purchasing Program does the bulk of the work related to County purchases of recycled products (including extensive tracking). WasteWise strongly supports the exceptional work of the Environmental Purchasing Program and refers County agencies to that program when appropriate. The WasteWise "buy recycled" goals listed below fall within what the Environmental Purchasing Program is doing.

Buying Recycled Goals: Increase overall purchases of recycled products by seven percent per year; Use compost (purchased from another source) in County maintenance and construction projects whenever possible; Increase the County's use of compost each year; Establish new environmental purchasing guidelines for County computer purchases; Increase the purchase of recycled products for County construction projects each year.

Progress made toward these three-year "buying recycled" goals, and related activities, in 2003:

- King County purchased an estimated \$5.1 million dollars worth of "environmentally preferable" products in 2003. This includes \$814,000 for hybrid and "flexible fuel" vehicles. Most of the rest of the purchases were of recycled-content or remanufactured products. The \$5.1 million total was a 30 percent increase over the environmentally preferable purchases in 2002.
- About \$3.25 million worth of recycled paper products were purchased in 2003, an increase of 16 percent over 2002.
- About 3,561 cubic yards of compost (including yard waste and biosolids compost) were used by the County Roads Division in 2003, at a total purchase price of \$89,000. This is an increase of 90 percent over the amount of compost used by the County in 2002.
- The County's Information Technology staff began the process of choosing a new computer supplier for the County, and was considering requiring the supplier to provide recycling for all old computers, and a delivery method for new computers (using durable carts) that would greatly reduce packaging.
- Also, King County is an active member and financial backer of the national Product Stewardship Institute, which published, "Purchasing Environmentally Preferable Computers: A Guide for Government Procurement Officials," in February, 2003, and has done significant research on this issue.
- A variety of recycled-content products were used in construction of the County's new Regional Communications and Emergency Coordination Center building, which was completed in May, 2003. These materials include reinforcing steel, structural steel, fly ash, wallboard and metal studs for framing. The quantities for those materials were reported in King County's 2002 WasteWise evaluation report.

OTHER PURCHASES OF RECYCLED-CONTENT PRODUCTS in 2003 not directly related to goals:

- Recycled concrete aggregate. About 3,850 yards (a 37 percent increase over 2002). Estimated purchases: \$31,000.
- Plastic bags (garbage can liners). Post-consumer content: 25-30 percent. About 8,500 cases. Estimated purchases: More than \$135,000.
- Recycled glass that replaces filtration sand in swimming pool filters.
- Wood chips from shredded land-clearing debris. About 35,000 cubic yards. Estimated purchases: \$30,000. Estimated savings of \$35,000 by using this material instead of virgin aggregate.
- Plastic lumber for park benches and for truck sideboards (replacing wooden sideboards in some County dump trucks). In the sideboard project, because replacement frequency has been reduced from two wooden sideboards per week to less than one plastic sideboard per month, the County is saving \$10,000 per year in materials costs.
- Re-refined oil. About 90,000 gallons. Estimated purchases: More than \$250,000.
- Re-refined antifreeze. More than 17,000 gallons. Estimated purchases: \$45,000.
- Vegetable-oil-based lubricants. About 8,000 quarts. Estimated purchases: \$25,000.

Other comments on "buy-recycled" efforts:

- The total estimated purchases of recycled paper - \$3.25 million in 2003 - were more than 98 percent of all King County paper purchases. Recycled paper is used for all major government functions, including more than nine million bus schedules annually, tax statements, court forms, pet license notifications, business cards, reports, stationery, and internal printing.
- The total estimated savings from using "environmentally preferable" products in 2003 was \$580,000, compared to the cost of the products ordinarily purchased. Environmentally preferable products include those that contain recycled material, reduce waste, save energy, are less toxic, or are more durable.
- Assisted by the King County WasteWise program, the County's Employee Deferred Compensation Program convinced its vendor, T. Rowe Price (a major financial services company) to use recycled paper in a mailing to all County employees.

COMMENTS SECTION

BACKGROUND

From 1998 to 2000, the only King County agency that was a WasteWise member was the Department of Natural Resources. We then expanded our membership to include all of King County government. 2003 is the third year that the WasteWise program, and the WasteWise evaluation, have included all County government operations. Because of the vast geographical area of King County and the wide reach of County services, WasteWise does not yet work directly with every County facility. However, King County

WasteWise has significantly increased its sphere of influence within County government over the past two years. We now cover an estimated 95 King County facilities. Some of these are very small, without regular staff, such as wastewater pumping stations, but they do contribute to the reported statistics (composted yard waste, for example).

The goals described in this evaluation report are the three-year goals for 2001 to 2003. Because that three-year period has ended, King County has submitted new three-year goals. Our new goals are ambitious, and they seek to build on King County's past WasteWise success.

AWARDS

We would like to apply for the Partner of the Year award. If challenge awards are given that cover the Building Challenge (which King County joined in 2002), we would also like to be considered for that award, for the green building accomplishments described above. We are sending in the award application electronically.

PROMOTION OF WASTEWISE

Internal:

- King County has won the national WasteWise Partner of the Year award for local governments the past two years in a row, in 2002 and 2003. Both of these years, the WasteWise program has sponsored a special recognition event for some of the County employees who have been leaders in waste prevention and recycling. In 2003, this event was held in October, at the office of King County Executive Ron Sims, the head of County government. County Executive is an elected position, and Ron Sims is one of the best-known and most visible elected officials in the state. About 25 employees and managers from about eight different divisions attended this recognition event. As he had the previous year, County Executive Sims asked that the trophy be rotated among the employees who helped win the award, so that it will sit on their desks for a period of time, to honor them for their accomplishments. This is now being done, and employees often bring the trophy in to staff meetings or training meetings, or show it to high-level managers.

The EPA's Marykay Voytilla, a manager in the Office of Waste and Chemicals Management for EPA Region 10, attended the 2003 recognition event and gave a short speech recognizing the King County employees.

For this recognition event, for the first time, the WasteWise program created custom-made certificates, and Executive Sims presented them to the honored employees. The certificates state, "In recognition of the outstanding work you have done for King County's internal efforts on recycling collection, waste prevention and buying recycled-content products. As a result of these efforts, King County has been named the top local government WasteWise program in the nation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for 2003." The certificates feature the EPA WasteWise logo and are signed by Ron Sims.

- In June, 2003, the King County WasteWise program sponsored a tour of the recycling plant operated by Sea-Dru-Nar, the non-profit organization that has the contract to collect and process paper and other recyclables from King County facilities. Sea-Dru-

Nar (which stands for the Seattle Drug and Narcotics Treatment Center) operates drug and alcohol recovery treatment centers and programs in the Seattle area. It was the first drug treatment facility in the Northwest. In 1979, Sea-Dru-Nar started its recycling business to provide its clients with a work therapy environment, and to help fund its treatment programs. Sea-Dru-Nar Recycling now serves more than 800 business and institutional accounts and processes more than 2,000 tons of paper a month.

This is how the WasteWise program promoted the event in an e-mail message:

"Have you ever wondered what happens to that piece of paper after you put it in the recycling bin? Join us for a tour of Sea-Dru-Nar's state-of-the-art recycling plant in south Seattle - a rare opportunity to see how recyclable materials are processed. We'll also give a brief presentation about King County's award-winning internal recycling and waste prevention programs, and answer any questions you might have."

"Your hosts: The King County WasteWise Program, King County Facilities Management and Sea-Dru-Nar."

"On our tour, we'll see how Sea-Dru-Nar's crews and equipment sort the collected office paper into nine different grades. We'll see the 15-person sorting lines, the mechanical screening and separating systems, the scales, the balers and various other equipment. We'll also learn how Sea-Dru-Nar has successfully intertwined its treatment programs and its recycling business."

About 22 King County employees and managers from 10 different offices and facilities attended the tour. Many of those attending raved about the tour, and it generated several follow-up leads and projects for the WasteWise program.

- In March, 2003, the King County WasteWise program e-mailed a survey to about 150 staff and managers in County government who had been identified as being involved or interested in King County internal recycling, waste prevention and buying-recycled programs. The survey asked what materials were collected for recycling at their sites and what other materials they would like to see recycled, and also asked about specific waste prevention practices. About 60 people responded to the survey. The WasteWise coordinators followed up by contacting everyone who had a question or suggestion. This resulted in a number of recycling service improvements (new bins, new materials being added, new building contacts, etc.).

- A website for the internal King County WasteWise program was launched in 2002. Throughout 2003, it proved extremely useful in promoting the WasteWise program to County agencies. The website includes the County's WasteWise goals, its evaluation reports, information on WasteWise projects, links to related programs, and a link to the EPA WasteWise website. Although King County has an internal "Intranet" accessible only to County employees, the WasteWise website was put on the external Internet, so everyone could have access to it (County employees at home, other WasteWise partners, EPA staff, businesses looking for ideas, etc.). The website is located at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/wastewise>

External:

- After King County won the 2003 national WasteWise Partner of the Year award for local governments (for the second year in a row), we publicized this by sending out a press release to local newspapers and other media.
- The main King County website for the public featured a photo of County Executive Ron Sims with the County employees honored at the October 2003 WasteWise recognition ceremony (for more on that, see above).
- The King County WasteWise program assists other local governments and businesses, regionally and nationally, by answering questions and providing information about our WasteWise projects. For example, in 2003, King County WasteWise coordinators worked directly with the City of Tacoma, WA (which was planning to join WasteWise) and Hennepin County, MN, which was seeking to improve its existing internal waste prevention efforts.